

**MODULAR IMAGING OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE FOR SYSTEM INSTALL AND
RESTORE**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A modular approach to creating a software configuration and to allowing recovery of a configuration. Initial configuration tools can be applied or executed selectively and in different orders at a time of manufacture or shipping of a computer system. Foundation images and modules are stored in a flat directory structure, in one directory, with unique names to make management of, and access to, the images and modules more efficient. Records are used to identify image and module compatibility on specific hardware platforms, or sets (i.e., computer system hardware). In one embodiment a text format is used for the records and other database information to describe and define the images and modules. A hardware set is identified by an identification (ID) code. A recovery set of tools allows a user to selectively restore a system to an original configuration, or to restore selected modules or components. A graphical user interface is described along with facilities for starting and managing a recovery process, application recovery, and Compact Disk (CD)/ Digital Video Disk (DVD) media creation from within the computer system's operating system and to recover system and application files and modules; create recovery media and to remind a user to create recovery media.